

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER BACHELOR OF ARTS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES AT METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER

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I. SUMMARY

This agenda item requests approval for Metropolitan State College of Denver (Metro) to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies.

II. BACKGROUND

Metropolitan State College of Denver has offered a minor in Women's Studies since 1973 via the Individualized Degree Program (IDP). The program is ready to advance to a stand-alone major that can better meet the needs of Metro's student population.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Women's Studies supports the role and mission of Metropolitan State College of Denver. The statutory mission states:

There is hereby established a college at Denver, to be known as Metropolitan state college of Denver, which shall be a comprehensive institution with modified open admission standards at the baccalaureate level; except that nontraditional students at the baccalaureate level who are at least twenty years of age shall only have as an admission requirement a high school diploma, a GED high school equivalency certificate, or the equivalent thereof. Metropolitan state college of Denver shall offer a variety of liberal arts and science, technical, and educational programs. The college may offer a limited number of professional programs. In furtherance of its role and mission, Metropolitan state college of Denver may offer master's degree programs that address the needs of its urban service area. C.R.S. 23-54-101

EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR THE PROGRAM:

Since 1990-1991, Metro has had about 30 IDP majors and 54 minors each year. On average, six IDP majors and seven women's studies majors graduate each year. A recent survey of current students showed that both minors and IDP majors would declare a women's studies major if one were available. In addition, results from an employer survey indicate a very high degree of employer satisfaction with women's studies IDP major and minor graduates on 13 different abilities and characteristics.

RESOURCE NEEDS

Because the Women's Studies program currently maintains a functional major through the IDP, the economic impact will be negligible. The proposed program will continue the recommended curriculum offered through IDP with some slight adjustments. If the stand alone major allows for better target marketing, then there is potential for growth that may require additional resources to fund additional personnel.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff have reviewed this proposed program and letters of assurances from academic administrators to ensure that the degree program meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. §23-5-129.6. The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Bachelor of Arts in degree in Women's Studies submitted by Metropolitan State College of Denver.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute and policy are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129 (6)(b)